



War for Peace in Pakistan

Syed Masroor Ali

Assistant Professor Dept. of Psychiatry
International Islamic University, Malaysia

Abstract

Pakistan because of its geographical location became a front line state in the war against terror since the attack on the World Trade Centre on September 11, 2001. Pakistan decided to align with USA to combat the fundamentalist. It's a war whose main purpose is to save people from terrorism but now lives of Pakistan own citizens are at stake. Innocent citizens have become the targets of deadly attacks. It has resulted in much more loss of lives than 9/11 attack. One obvious and tragic price of this open war is the toll of death and destruction. But there is an additional cost, a psychological cost borne by the survivors of war. The civilian population, and the children who have lost their parents in this war are the real casualties we need to take into consideration. This article will highlight the psycho-social aspects of war which could not achieve peace yet.

Keywords: Peace, Conflict, War, Pakistan, Terrorism

Peace and War

Peace is a condition of harmony described by the lack of intense conflict. It is generally understood as the absence of aggression. Considering international relations, peacetime is understood not only the absence of war or conflict, but also the presence of social and monetary understanding and unity. On the other hand War is a declared state of systematized conflict, represents by extreme hostility, societal disturbance, and great mortality. The traditional method used by a group to carry out war is known as warfare. When there is an absence of war, it is called peace.

The relationship between peace and conflict is narrowly linked. Usually, peace has a positive implication and conflict a negative one. However, in certain situations it might be sensible to report conflicts openly or to even live them out instead of brushing them under the carpet. Peace and conflict studies today is widely explored and taught in a large and mounting number of locations and institutions.

Pakistan

Southern Asia comprises the countries of India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Maldives. The second largest country in the subcontinent population-wise and area-wise is Pakistan and has customarily maintained the stability of power in the region due to its strategic links with nearby Arab States and neighboring China. With over 170 million people, it is heavily populated country in the world and has the second biggest Muslim population after Indonesia. Pakistan has the seventh largest standing armed

force and is the only Muslim-majority nation to possess nuclear weapons. Since attaining independence, Pakistan's history has been characterized by phases of military rule, political insecurity and conflicts with neighboring India. The country is exposed to challenging problems including poverty, violence, corruption and terrorism.

Background of terrorism in Pakistan.

Terrorism in Pakistan has become a major and extremely damaging occurrence in recent years. This was started with debatable Islamization policies in the 1980s, during Soviet-Afghan War in which a guerilla holy war, termed as JIHAD was started which is branded as terrorism today. Pakistan's participation in the Soviet-Afghan War led to a larger entrance of ideologically motivated Afghan Arabs in the tribal regions and an invasion of ammunition and drugs. The national intelligence agencies, in association with the CIA, encouraged the "mujahideen" to fight a proxy war against the Soviet Union; and later these mujahideen were never disarmed after that warfare. A lot of overlapping and interconnected organizations were made. One of these organizations was al-Qaeda, formed by bin Laden in 1988.

Pakistan's Policy after attacks on USA.

There were a series of suicide attacks upon the United States on September 11, 2001. Nearly 3,000 fatalities and the 19 hijackers died in the attacks. Suspicion promptly fell on al-Qaeda. The United States reacted to the attacks by launching the War on Terror, invading Afghanistan to throw out the Taliban. Pakistan, due to its strategic importance and close relation with the Taliban regime, was asked to assist US and World alliance against al-Qaeda. Pakistani authorities moved reluctantly to align themselves with the United States in a war to combat the alleged fundamentalist and Islamic terrorist. Pakistan because of its geographical location became a front line state in the war against terror.

Impact on Pakistan.

This war against terrorism has triggered suffering, deaths and destruction to the general public. Pakistan is key victim of Afghanistan's insecurity and due to which Pakistan's economy has suffered. Terrorism has significantly affected the foreign investment, unemployment increased and World Bank has to block vital loans. On the other hand, war raises the overhead expenses of the forces to meet their needs. Education is affected up to a high level. Activists had demolished so many schools and colleges and students are waiting to go back to their homes and resume education. Health system is destroyed and hospitals are deficient in equipment. Acute shortage of Doctors has now paralyzed the health services and infant and maternal mortality rates have significantly deteriorated. Tourism was the only main mode of income and financiers have moved their assets to other cities.

In addition to the toll of death and destruction, the survivors of war may suffer the greatest psychological harm. The civilian victims including veteran population are facing difficulty in managing stress, shock, fright of violence and socio-economic pressure. People had to leave their houses, which also affected them

financially. Prolonged exposure to war caused severe psychological impact on women and children. Moreover, psycho traumatized people are deprived of psychological help. A certain part of war-affected children are known in refugee conditions as “Unaccompanied children” where they wait for ages in sad situations for normal life to restart, if it ever does. There are children who are disabled in war; they may, in addition to loss of a limb, sight, or cognitive capability, lose the opportunity of schooling and of a social life. Even long after the war, these lives will never reach the level they had before the impact of war.

Conflicting war.

An argument fueled in people’s mind that who will be consider as martyr as both Taliban and Pakistan army are Muslims? It’s up to public to choose if Taliban are Muslims, Is this Islam to slaughter people? Is this Islam to execute innocent people? Is this Islam to blow up Mosques? Is this Islam to abolish schools? The Arabic word "ISLAM" means peace. The word Muslim means the person who submits to Allah in Peace. Currently, the major threat to the state is the killing of innocent civilians in deadly suicidal attacks. Suicide bombers often have faith in their actions, they justify suicide is against Islam but Martyrdom is not. However many mainstream Muslim experts have criticized attacks on civilians as inexcusable violence and sins in Islam. To resolve the conflict Pakistani troops decided to eradicate the bugs that are eating up country from inside before they flourish in their mission and destroy Pakistan.

Conclusion.

Pakistan has suffered massive setbacks in this war and faced trouble of terrorism with full strength and enthusiasm. Now this is the responsibility of all stake holders that they should let the Pakistan grab militancy in its own way, Pakistan army and intelligence agencies are quite efficient in handling such situation, but they need is adequate diplomatic support from other countries. They should trust Pakistan’s efforts and must respect and integrity the sovereignty and independency of Pakistan.

It’s a war whose main purpose is to save people from terrorism. But now lives of Pakistan own citizens are at stake. Peace requires safety in matters of social or economic welfare. But law and order situation in the country has constantly deteriorated since 2001. This conflict is still to resolve, whether peace is achieved or unrest is augmented since the war is carried out on Pakistan to achieve peace. Some debate that the term “war” is not suitable in this context, since they believe there is no identifiable enemy, and that it is unlikely worldwide terrorism can be brought to an end by armed means.

Further criticism maintains that the War on Terror delivers an agenda for everlasting war; the declaration of such flexible goals produces a state of limitless conflict, since "radical groups" can continue to arise indefinitely. "As many protestors have pointed out, terrorism is not an enemy. It is a tactic. There is need to create awareness on peace among researchers. Platform is required to share concern for understanding and discussing issues pertaining peace from various perspectives, including an Islamic perspective.

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